

Transcribed Excerpt from Part I: "Some Account of the Achievements of the Celebrated Virginian Hero, George Rogers Clark, in the Western Country," March 30, 1816

Some account of the achievements of the celebrated Virginian hero, George Rogers Clarke, in the Western Country.

The year 1778 constitutes a remarkable epoch in the revolutionary annals of confederated America. In that memorable year, the savage Foresters, who inhabited the vicinity of the American settlements, could not be induced to remain inactive spectators of the contest between Great Britain and the States that had lately shaken off their dependence upon her. Early accustomed to rapine, exulting in destruction and blood, they wanted no more than their inculcated ferocity and their hereditary resentments against the Whites in general to hurry them into hostilities. But to these inherent principles of rancor, and of that fondness for war, were added the corrupting liberality and insidious promises of British Emissaries, who seeking a refuge among them, endeavored to infuse into their hearts the malignant and vindictive passions which raged in their own bosoms. The north western frontier suffered extremely from their ruthless incursions. - Like beasts of prey, they unexpectedly fell upon their intended victims; and after glutting with blood, their ferocious appetites, and inflicting all the misery in their power, they most frequently retired, unpursued and unpunished

In this fearful crisis, it was fortunate for Virginia to possess, on her western borders, one of those rare individuals whom nature has endowed with equal energy of body and mind - with genius to plan, and activity to execute. Col. George Rogers Clarke saved her back settlements from Indian fury. He did more. He planted her standard far beyond the banks of the Ohio- and added profitable conquests to the glory of chastising a cruel and insolent foe, and of ensuring tranquility to a whole frontier.

Previous apprehensions and judicious views had induced the Legislature to place under his command a portion of the public force. - It was well known that the Governor of the settlements planted by the Canadians on the Upper Mississippi, in the Illinois Country was an indefatigable agent of British ambition and British cruelty- paying largely for the scalps of Americans - and, by every possible method, stimulating the neighboring Indians to annoy and ravage the frontier. To strike an unexpected and decisive blow at this mischievous enemy, had long been a favourite scheme with Col Clarke - The petty warfare which he had hitherto waged, satisfied neither his patriotism (sic), nor his commendable love of fame. Even on the present occasion, he could obtain a small force only - between 2 & 300 men But, like himself, these few patriots were inured to fatigue, regardless of danger, and panting after their country's applause. No difficulty could dampen their ardor Descending the Monongahela, and the Ohio, down the great falls of the latter - they there hid their boats - and shaped their course northwardly Their provisions, which they carried on their backs, were soon consumed- for two days, they subsisted on roots, and, in a state of famine, reached the town of Kaskaskias, on the banks of the Mississippi. Hitherto

fortune had smiled on their enterprise... The midnight hour favoured their design. They found the inhabitants reposing in the lap of that security, which the idea of vast distances from the American settlements was calculated to create.- The town and the forts were taken in silence and without opposition. The surprise was so judiciously conducted, and so completely effected, that not a single person escaped to spread the alarm through the neighbouring settlements. Clarke, seizing the golden moment, immediately mounted a detachment of his men on horses found at Kaskaskias, and three other towns, further up the Mississippi, were reduced with equal success... Levies of infantry and cavalry were, therefore, directed to be speedily made, and to reinforce the brave and triumphant bandful of patriots who had effected this important reduction, and whose services were so justly rewarded with the applause of their grateful country.